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REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-22 were pending.

Claims 1-7 and 7-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Schmerken (Ivy Schmerken, "Real Liffe or Virtual Reality." Wall Street & Technology. New York: Jan. 1997. Vol. 15, Iss. 1, p. 70) ("Schmerken") in view of Tomasula (Dean Tomasula, "Virtual Trading is Virtually a Reality." Wall Street & Technology. New York: Oct. 1995. Vol. 13, Iss. 10, p. 44) ("Tomasula"). Claims 8-10 and 18-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Schmerken in view of Tomasula as applied to claim 5, and further in view of Marshall U.S. Pat. No. 5,675,746 ("Marshall").

Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 5, 11 and 15 for clarity, and present new claim 23 for examination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants have amended the independent claims to emphasize that the claimed systems and methods relate to the management and supervision of trading exchanges. In particular, claim 1 now recites:

"at a centralized location, providing a visual display of trading exchange activity including systems activity and trading activity to a trading exchange supervisor or manager; and

providing an interactive decision support interface coupled to the visual display of trading exchange activity; and

wherein providing the visual display of trading exchange activity comprises:

... generating a two dimensional display representing an aspect view of [a] three dimensional model [of the exchange] selected via the interactive decision support interface, said two dimensional display including perspective views of at least some of said surfaces of said model . . .”

Amended method claim 5 (and system claims 11 and 15) include limitations similar to those of amended claim 1. Further, new claim 23 that depends on claim 1, requires “using the interactive decision support interface . . . for ensuring and enforcing compliance with the trading exchange’s financial and operational requirements; checking on brokers’ sales practices; [and/or] monitoring specialist operations.”

Applicants respectfully continued to disagree with the broad interpretation, which the Examiner gives to the cited references. For brevity, applicants’ disagreements, which are outlined in the previous Replies, are not repeated, but are incorporated by reference herein.

Here, applicants further note that the amended limitations of claims 1-23, which are directed to the management and supervision of trading exchanges, are not shown, taught or suggested by the cited-references — Schmerken, Tomasula and Marshall, whether viewed independently or in combination. For example, with respect to claims 1, 5, 11 and 15, none of the cited references teach providing an interactive decision support interface coupled to a visual display of trading exchange activity, where the visual display is selectable via the interactive decision support interface to display selected 2-D views of a trading exchange model. Further, with respect to claim 23, none of the cited references show, teach or suggest using the interactive decision support interface . . . for ensuring and enforcing compliance with the trading

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exchange's financial and operational requirements; checking on brokers' sales practices; [and/or] monitoring specialist operations."

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-23 are non-obvious and patentable over the cited references even when the references are viewed in combination.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,
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